

From: John Barentine

To: Rosemary and Alan

- Sep 4 at 6:45 PM

Hi Alan,

This looks pretty good to me. One might read this and conclude you must have been through this process before!

I have a few comments below, in italics.

Dark Sky Community Designation Requirements

1. Membership in IDA

- Nomination letter must come from an IDA member.*
- Access to hundreds of educational articles, PowerPoint presentations, other resources.
- Support from IDA during the application process. Dr. John Barentine, Program Manager.

Of course we would love more members, although membership is not a prerequisite for an application to Dark Sky Places to be considered. Membership would naturally speed up the process of identifying a member nominator, since applicants are allowed to self-nominate. Membership would also reflect favorably on the applicant(s) during the review as evidence of commitment to dark skies.

2. Approval from town government, which includes authorization of public and municipal lighting improvement projects. Documentation of completed improvement projects.*

Agreed that this should come early in the process.

3. Contact – NIPSCO Engineer Tom Miltenberger, to determine cost of streetlight retrofit.

With respect to retrofitting, (2) and (3) are dependent on an accurate inventory of the municipal lighting being obtained. If the town is sufficiently small, it may well already know where all the street lighting is. That would be the first thing to do -- figure out whether there's an inventory and how accurate it is, or whether an update needs to be made.

4. Financing for required streetlight retrofits and for other required public and municipal lighting improvements.

5. Continuing education. Presentations of IDA PowerPoint, and anti-glare demonstration. Educational articles in community newsletters and regional publications, utilizing the IDA library and other resources.*

6. Creation of new lighting ordinances or revision of existing ordinances to meet IDA requirements. Codes on commercial lighting, municipal/public lighting, and private lighting must be included.*

I might put this earlier in the process, or at least "Assess state of current local lighting policy relative to Dark Sky Community requirements". Since any changes have to go through the democratic process, that process can take place in parallel to the other tasks on the list.

7. Letters of endorsement from town government, town residents organization, individual town residents, regional organizations (NIRPC, IDNL, etc), local government officials (Rep. Visclosky).*

I might also move this up, in the broader sense of "coalition building". I would begin reaching out immediately, to inform the community of goings-on and try to figure out who the natural allies will be. Getting the letters themselves can come later in the process, of course.

8. Continuing commitment to sky brightness monitoring.*

With the understanding that there is no sky brightness threshold to become a Dark Sky Community, but the baseline measurements are needed to reference changes down the road. It may be best to get started on this early, only in that seasonal variations are hard to detect in measurements that span only a short period of time and conditions.

9. Publicity in local media.*

10. Development and submission of Dark Sky Community Application.

* These items must appear in the application.

Last but not least, would you do me a favor? Fill out and submit the web form for a Dark Sky Community inquiry for Ogden Dunes on our website (www.darksky.org/night-sky-conservation/318). This is just to create a record that formally begins the process.

Best,

John